Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05328 191535Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
----------094947 191546Z /45
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2767
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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S E C R E T JIDDA 5328

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

LONDON PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, XF
SUBJECT: THE LONDON TALKS

1. FOLLOWING TRIP TO SOUTH AISA, UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDI FONMIN JULY 18. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM TOLD PRINCE SAUD THAT ONE IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF THE LONDON TALKS WAS TO GET THE PEACE PROCESS GOING AGAIN. THS WAS IMPORTANT TO US BOTH FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN RELATIONS REASONS. IF NOTHING MORE CAME OUT OF THE TALKS THAN AN AGGREEMENT TO MEET AGAIN AND SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH ATHERTON IN AREA FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENTATIONS OF EACH SIDE, PROGRESS WILL HAVE BEEN MADE. THE SITUATION OFR SADAT IS DIFFICULT UNLESS HE CAN SHOW VEY SOON SOME RESULTS FROM HIS INITIATIVE. WE HAVE URGED BOTH SIDES TO PUT THEIR IDEAS ON THE TABLE. THE PAPERS ARE FAR APART BUT IN SOME PLACES THERE ARE NOT GREAT DIFFERENCES. BY GETTING CLARIFICATIONS, WE HOPE TO NARROW THE GAP. THIS PROCESS SHOULD CONTINUE ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE IS FERMENT OVER PEACE TERMS IN ISRAEL.

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2. IN RESOPONSE TO SAUDI COMMENT, NEWSOM SAID WE ARE NOT SUGGESTING THAT BEGIN OR HIS PARTY BE REPLACED. PRINCE SAUD ASKED WHY NOT. MR. NEWSOM ANSWERED THAT THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO INTERFERNECE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS INTERFERE IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE US . MR.

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NEWSOM SAID PRESSURES IN ISRAEL ARE BUILDING AND WILL
BE ACCENTUATED AS THE US AND EGYPT BEGIN TO ASK QUES-
TIONS ABOUT THE ISRAELI POSITION. AMBASSADOR WEST NOTED THAT
DIRECT US INVOLVEMTNT IN ISRAEL POLITICS COULD STRENG-
THEN, RATHER THAN WEAKEN, BEGIN.

3. UNDER SECRETARY NEW SOM SAID THAT THE US APPRECIATED
SAG'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR SADAT. HE REALIZED THAT THIS
WAS NOT EASY IN HE CURRENT SITUATUION. PRINCE SAUD SAID
THAT THE WHOLE SADAT INITIATIVE IS DOING HIM A GREAT DEAL
OF HARM. NOBODY IN THE ARAB WORLD SEES ANY VALUE IN MEET-
ING WITH THE ISRAELIS, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEIR POSITION
IS ALREADY CLEAR. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS A DIALOGUE
GOING ON IN ISRAEL BUT THE DIALOGUE IS NOT OVER HOW TO
IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH EGYPT BUT OVER HOW BADLY BEGIN
HANDLES HIS RELATIONS WITH THE US. PRINCE SAUD WENT ON
TO SAY THE EGYPT NEEDS, AND SADAT HAS SAID THAT
HE NEEDS, A FIRM AMERICAN PROPOSAL. HE KNOWS THE ISRAELI
POSITION AND HE KNOWS THAT HE CAN DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.
THE REASON FOR CONTINUING THE PROCESS IS SO THAT HE
WILL KNOW WHAT THE CURRENT US POSITION IS.

4. UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM SAID THE THE US WOULD HAVE
GREAT DIFFICULTY IN PUTTING FORTH SUGGESTION THAT DID
NOT RECOGNIZE THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. THE US
HAD PUT FORTH ITS OWN POSITION TWICE BEFORE: THE
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DULLES PLAN IN 1954-55 AND THE ROGERS PLAN AFTER 1967
WAR. BOTH PLANS WERE CONCEIVED IN THE US ONLY AFTER
MINIMUM DISCUSSION WITH THE PARTIES. THEY DID NOT WORK.
FOR THE US POSITION TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS IT
MUST TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES. THE
TWO PARTIES ARE IN DIRECT CONTACT AS A RESULT OF SADAT'S
OWN INITIATIVE. THE BREADKOOFF OF TALKS BY SADAT WAS BAD
FOR HIM IN THE US. NOW THE PARTIESAER TALKING TO
EACH OTHER AGIAN. WE NOW HAVE TWO PAPERS WHIVH WE
HOPE CAN BE CLARIFIED. THIS, IN ITSELF, REPRESENTS A
MAJOR STEP. WE WILL LOOK FOR WAYS TO BRIDGE THE GAP
BETWEEN THE TWO PAPERS. IF WE CANNOT BRIDGE THE GAP,
IT WILL BE TIME FOR US SUGGESTIONS. THEN SUCH A MOVE
WILL BE DEFENSIBLE IN THE US AND ELSWHERE, SINCE
WE HAVE GIVEN BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS. WE DO NOT ENVISAGE ALONG PROCESS.
POKSIBLY TWO-THREE MONTHS. IF THERE IS STILL NO SUCCESS,
WE CAN GO BACK TO RE CONSIDERATION OF A GENEVA MEETING,
ALTHROUGH WE FEEL THE PRESENT PROCESS HAS GREATER CHANCE
FOR SUCCESS.
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